

COLUMBIA CITY PARKING ACTION STRATEGY

GOAL #1: INCREASE ON-STREET PARKING – 37TH AVENUE S

“Create new on-street parking spaces for businesses in the downtown area, for residents, and for library patrons,” and under strategy b: “On 37th Ave S, between Edmunds and Ferdinand, move parking to the west side of the street (adjacent to Orca School) to increase the number of parking spots (there are no curb cuts on the west side of the street).” – *Columbia City Parking Action Strategy*

BACKGROUND

In 2002 the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) convened a Columbia City Parking Workgroup as part of the Making the Parking System Work program. The Kick-Off of this program in Columbia City, and the presentation of the workgroup’s recommendations at the March 15, 2003, annual Columbia City Revitalization Committee’s Town Hall meeting, were well advertised through post card mailings, notices circulated on community e-mail lists, and presentations to meetings of community organizations such as the Columbia City Revitalization Committee and Columbia City Business Association. The workgroup is comprised of representatives from the Columbia City Revitalization Committee, the Columbia City Business Association, the Columbia City branch of the Seattle Public Library, and area residents.

Among the workgroup’s recommendations was the goal of increasing the number of on-street parking spaces on the 4800 block S. 37th Ave (between S. Ferdinand and S. Edmunds) by switching the side of the street where parking is allowed from the east side to the west side. This block of 37th Avenue S has parking on only one side of the street for traffic flow and safety reasons. Because the east side of this block has several curb cuts for driveways and the west side has no curb cuts, the workgroup perceived that switching the side of the street where the parking is located would create additional on-street spaces.

APRIL 2004 UPDATE

In late January 2004 SDOT staff contacted the adjacent business owners and Orca School administration to inform them of the interest of the workgroup in switching the sides of the street where parking is located. None of the businesses nor Orca School staff perceived any negative consequences from doing so, and in March 2004 SDOT implemented this recommendation with an informational mailing being sent to adjacent businesses in advance of the on-street changes.

For more information on the Making the Parking System Work program, contact Randy Wiger at (206) 684-8186 or Randy.Wiger@Seattle.gov, or visit the program website at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/neighborhoodparking.htm>.